

Image

COMICS PRESENTS



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IS 771/S ONE GONNA MAKE SENSE? I THINK IT'S TIME FOR A STORY... A STORY BOUT THE MAXX?OH, BOY! THEY ALL MAKE SENSE. AT LEAST TO ME. ANYMAY, THE MADX WAS RESTING ON THE VERDANT JUNGLE FLOOR OF THE OUTBACK, ALSO KNOWN AS PANCAEA, THE JUNGLE WORLD, WHEN A DICANT CAME SLINKING OVERHEAD... A WHAT? A DICANT! IT'S ONE OF THE MAJOR PREDITIONS! WHAT DO THE! TEACH YOU KIDS IN SCHOOL? 141.









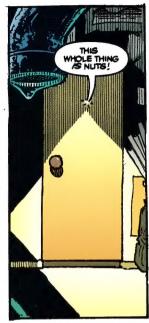










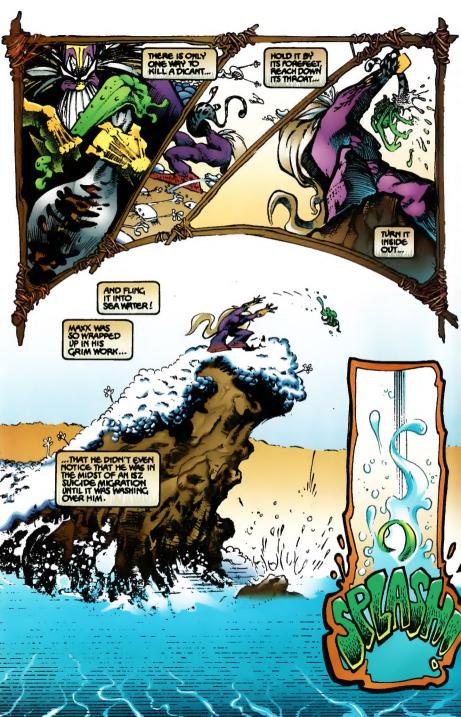














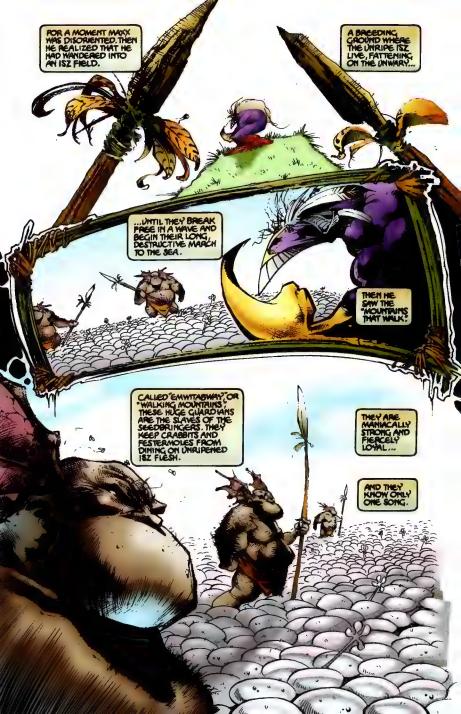


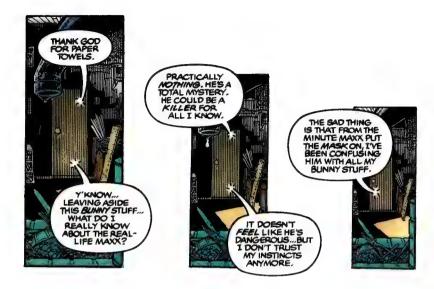












































James Dean Conklin did the cool Maxx pin-up last issue. He signed it, but it wasn't properly credited. Same for the wraparound Maxx which was in that issue of Maxx Traxx and was done by Unggul Herlambang of Indonesia. Sorry, dudes! At the end of this column is a list of some of my work.

We get so many cool letters. Don't get downed if yours doesn't get printed—it's not like we just blow off the rest. Every let-

ter is carefully read and considered. . .aw, hell—who's fooling who. It's pretty much a crapshoot as to which we pick! But we DO read every last one of those suckers (and you guys think I'M weird. . . .

Dear Sam Kieth.

I am a 13-year-old seventh grader who is now engaged in an industrial arts class. One of our first projects was a cutting board. When we were deciding what to engrave, and then paint, on the front of our cutting boards, I had a sudden

great burst of inspiration. I decided to put THE MAXX's head on mine. Well, it wasn't such a great burst of inspiration. Kids in my class asked me if it was an alien or a pineapple. I tried to carefully explain what it really was to each person who asked. Nobody understood. Please print this letter so the kids in my class know that I'm not insane, about THE MAXX and all. I'm not insane, am 1?

Well, even if it does look like a piece of fruit, I'm still proud of it!

A slightly confused fan, (Alias) Joe Buck Spanch, Minnesota

...A piece of fruit?

Dear Sam

I am a major Image Comic Fan. My #1 favorite book is Spawn and my way cool mom's favorite book is MAXX. I read both of them and I

noticed a few things about Spawn and Maxx—they both live in New York alleyways. So how come they've never met? It would be way cool if they came together either to fight or as friends.

Stay cool Sam!
Just another
female fan,
Kore Clayton
Ashland, MO
P.S. This is to the "Very
proud MALE MAXX fan"
(from Issue #4): Man,
you are one hell of a
Dork. Get a life. (Sam:
If you answer my letter,
please say "Hi" to my
mom. Her name is Kim.)
A Spawn-Maxx fight

sounds cool to me. How about it, Spawnfolk? Hi, Kim. Hey—what a coincidence! My mom's favorite book is Maxx, too... I think....

Mr. Kieth.

After reading #7 and receiving a few hints, it seems that everything which occurs in THE MAXX is in fact in Julie's active subconsciousness! Isz are the focal point of the story because they represent sectors of her brain (grey matter?) that con-



tain her horrible memories of the past. Our friendly package of clay explains Maxx, the spirit friend (a materialistic form given to your consciousness? or perhaps human will power?) as a guide, a crusader if you will, who constantly battles the Isz to expose and come to terms with all the negative emotions built up in Julie's psyche. Mr. Gone thus represents the subconscious walls erected by Julie to block her tragic childhood. Every time Julie begins to remember, it's his job to close those doors until such a time that Julie is ready to handle the truth, which I assume deals with sexual and mental abuse she experienced at a very early age. Is that not why everything in her mind is very cartoonish, because these characters existing in her mind were created by her at such an early age?

Julie is her own enemy in this story; Julie has a war inside her head that she has developed solely on her own as she tries to understand and deal with emotions of the past the only way she knows how. Maxx is trying to help her remember, while Mr. Gone believes that if she remembers too soon it will cause a total backlash, shutting down her mind

Anyway, I took a stab at it. Am I close or what?

Name withheld

Pretty close, but I think the next letter's even closer.

Dear Mr. Kieth,

My name is Karen Nguyen and I am 7 years old. I like THE MAXX because purple is my favorite color. I try to draw MAXX and I drew a picture at the bottom. My brother read Maxx #7 to me and I hope Maxx beats up Pitt. Maxx is my favorite character. I think those Isz are funny. I love THE MAXX and I hope he turns into a cartoon series.

Karen Nguyen
Fountain Valley, CA
So do I, but I'll probably screw it up
(see indicia).

Dear Sam and Maxxheads, I am "Name Withheld" from Maxx #3. I would just like to apologize for all that I have said. And by the way, my name's Tracer Fieldes.

Tracer Fieldes Loveland, OH

OK, now will everybody lighten up on this guy?

Yo Sam.

Maxx vs. Pitt is awesome!!! Before it came out, I was wondering how the heck you were going to have Maxx meet Pitt while still resolving Julie's emotional trials and tribulations. I was sure it was going to either futz the whole story up, or the next couple of issues would be a hiatus for the Julie storyline. But you managed to have cool sequences with Pitt, successfully continued Julie's saga, and featured one of my personal favorite characters, Sarah. I love Sarah; she reminds me of Sylvia Plath. I hope you realize you opened a whole new can of worms by introducing Sarah's spirit animal.

Take Hare, Daniel (Screw-head) Wright Ridgewood, NY

I was wondering about that too, how to bring

Pitt in and still continue the same

old Maxx/Julie stuff.
Glad you think it worked.

DWATHE HOLMES

The question has come up of whether Pitt or the Dragon will appear in the Maxx cartoon. That's up to Dale and Erik and whether they want to get sucked into it all. They have some of their own deals going.

About the cartoon: things are going pretty cool.

A lot of people working on the cartoon are there because they're Maxxheads as well as animators. I don't think there's ever been a cartoon that's going to be as close to the comic (maybe to the detriment of the cartoon!). Luckily, we're using most of Bill's original dialogue, so we can't screw it up too bad.

Mr. Kieth,

I remember hearing somewhere that you worked with Neil Gaiman. If so, why the Deathbashing in #4?

> Hope to hear from you soonever.

Matt Tyler

Provo, UT

Death-bashing? Hey, come on-lighten up. If there's anybody who should be allowed to bash Death, it's me. You know how it's OK for you to pick on your little brother, but nobody else can? That's how I feel about the Sandman characters.

Yo, Mr. Maxx!

In view of the recent "Dinner with Todd McFarlane" contest, I think you should run a "Breakfast with Sam Kieth" contest! Think about it! Having someone at the mercy of your Pez and toast! Would it not be fiendishly delightful? Also please make a Maxx Pez dispenser. My friend Jay won't stop talking about it.

Mississauga, Ont.

Stop him, please!

Read on.

Dear Sam.

My name's Will and, for some bizarre and enigmatic reason, I love THE MAXX. And since I'm such a big MAXX-head (a great term), recently comments and questions have appeared in my mind that I have to voice on paper:

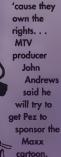
1. I've never seen Maxx

eat. I mean, any decent person nowadays that you see on the street could easily tell you, "Why, THE MAXX would kill for Pez and toast." But, I haven't seen him eat either of those nutritious delicacies during the whole run of THE MAXX. And how can he eat without a lower jaw?

- 2. The characters in THE MAXX are utterly believable. I believe only The Sandman rivals your book in fantastic and believable characters.
- 3. So, now I gather that Mr. Gone is a wackedout, tripping Beavis clone that talks through other people's heads. Uh-huh. (Give him back his noggin soon.)
- 4. I really love THE MAXX's bagels. Totally casual.
- 5. What kind of music does THE MAXX listen to? Henry Rollins? Bob Dylan? The Dead Milkmen? Just wondering intently.
- 6. To everyone writing in about THE MAXX's identity: please! THE MAXX is a hellacious rager with a hell of an overbite, long and pointed middle fingers, a feminist social worker '60's retro friend, and a billion and a half little black creatures with no eyes and a vocabulary almost completely limited to "Meep" after him. Doesn't that explain it?
- 7. Forgive my annoying inquisitiveness and hyper-criticism about identity letters, but... Sam?...is Maxx a bunny? Adieu, people, don't be strangers and continue reading THE MAXX! Will "Judge" Stenberg

1. Say! I never have drawn Maxx eating toast or Pez, have !? I guess I can't quit after Ish #11, after all. I know—Pez and toast need their own trading cards!

Elk. CA





Maybe if every single deranged Maxxhead wrote to Pez before the cartoon came out in November. .

naw. That'll never happen. Pez has too much dianity for that.

MR. GONE SAID THAT WE PSECOME MEAT-EATERS WHEN WE GO OVER, BUTWHAT THE MEEP AM I SUPPOSED TO EAT HERE??!

2. Gee that sets new lows for both books.

- 3. Ok...
- 4. ?
- 5. Henry Rollins? Are you calling me A Liar?
- Does for me.
- 7. Only in the outback. It's still anybody's quess what's under the mask on this side.

Sam.

What the hell was a candy cane doing in Julie's refrigerator?

> Your confused fan. Jonathan "Doffin" Grissom Amory, MS

What do you have against candy canes? Speaking of candy, I'd give my left nut for a kiss-up letter right here.

Dear Sam.

I think that THE MAXX is absolutely outstanding. Image has impressed me. They have managed to round up all of the best. Someone finally figured out how good you are and gave you the room you deserved. You are one of the greats, and I will continue buying THE MAXX because of the time, effort, and pure quality that you put in your work. You have created much of the joy ! have derived from comics.

Well, enough kissin' up

If Julie had a tattoo, what would it say? "Nietzshe rules?" "Sex, drugs, and pet rocks?" Does she like the group, "Bad Company?" I do.

I know Maxx likes Pez and toast, but I think he should have more cultured tastes. How about French toast, collard greens, burritos, and toothpaste (minty)?

You kick *ss, stay cool.

Luke Katims Vancouver, WA JEREMY STOCKSLAGER Dear Mr. Sam Kieth

Tell me the truth. Is THE MAXX, you know, kinda like Thumper? I mean. think about it. You're not fooling anybody!

> 1. THE MAXX has bia feet, so do rab-

bits.

2. THE MAXX has big teeth.... so do rabbits. THE MAXX

likes specific foods (toast and

Pez). So do rabbits (carrots, lettuce).

- 4. Mr. Gone calls THE MAXX "Hopping Boy." Rabbits hop.
- 5. On the cover of THE MAXX #3, Maxx's claws look like ears-rabbit ears.
- 6. THE MAXX has strange dreams. So do rabbits (trust me, I've seen it).
- 7. THE MAXX is purple and yellow. Rabbits are... um... well, you get the idea. Reland Boyce Sayville, NY

I think this guys getting really warm. In fact, I'm getting really warm just thinking about it....

Dear Sam.

In THE MAXX #3, there is an Is catching a crabbit, so why did Mr. Gone say that Isz become meat-eaters when you bring them over? Aren't they meat-eaters on both sides?

> Sincerely, Jeremy Stockslager Sherman, TX

Nothing in Pangaea has any meat in it. . .same as this comic. . .

Dear Mr. Sam,

I used to think that comic books sucked, but my older brother/good friend persuaded me to read MAXX #1, telling me that I could relate to Julie because of my little pot belly and stubby pits. Since then, I have read all of THE MAXX comic books I get my hands on, and I must say that I appreciate such realistic gore, colour, life, and bodies. Please keep up with THE MAXX series. Never stop, or I won't have anyone to relate to.

> Mouse W. California

P.S. Will there be a Pez dispenser? Because it's one a.m., I'm kinda tired.......2.a.m......3a.m.......4a.m.... C'mon, let loose,5a.m........6a.m......what, iz time fo' P.P.S. Give Julie a navel ring. schoo'?.......9a.m.....Oh boy. That Um. . .hmmm. . . helped. Now, the time you've all been waiting for. . .the revealing of THE MAXX! But first-a Sam, You guys are sick and perverted... I LOVE IT! game to keep you amused while I get my notes together: You guys rule! Maxx fan. THE PICK-THE-MAXX IDENTITY GAME! Joe "I don't need a nickname Hey kids! Pick who YOU think is THE MAXX's with a cool name like Joe" identity: Haney 1. Barney Norton, OH 2. Lobo See Indicia for response. 3. Sam's 19th self, the woman side of him 4. The Pillsbury dough boy Dear Miss Julie. 5. The Tidy Bowl Man Will you marry me? 6 Mr. Clean Carpethead 7. Spawn's lost brother Park Ridge, IL 8. Some total idiot thought up by that idiot To quote the great R. Crumb, "Hey folks, it's just Kieth lines on paper." Got my notes together. He really is... Barney! Whoops! That's Wolverine's identity. He really Dear Sam. is. . .a politician! That's right because is Issue #5, I have figured out THE MAXX's identity. I am he removes his mask and seeds that were hidden expecting a Glow-in-the-Dark Maxx on my fall out. The seeds represent money, the mask doorstep soon. And, because I'm a nice guy, I'm represents lies! So, lemme have the Glow-in-thenot going to keep all of you in suspense (No, you Dark Maxx. idiot, I'm not talking about your other selves, I'm Matt Barringer talking about all the readers)! Your comic is just Piedmont, CA about my sixth favorite comic (you're tied with Uh-huh... Bone). I have all of your issues, and, I'm happy to say, I don't regret paying the amazingly low (for Dear Sam. comics these days) price of \$1.95 (I'm What is that black stringy mess that connects giving out compliments here!). So, I THE MAXX's claw with his arm? think your book is... weird, I LIKE Shachar Meron weird stuff. I like THE Homewood, IL MAXX It's either (a) splattered, dried lava from Maxx sticking his hands into a volcano, (b) a cool splatter effect (1 just BRYAN SHINN like the way India ink looks when it's blown across paper with a straw), or (c) both of the above. Dear Kieth, THE MAXX waz one of the Best Comics I read this

year! I like Maxx so much I drew him on school desks (three of them, and I didn't get caught, either).

So here are my questions.

- 1. Does Maxx have a hard time walking up stairs?
- 2. Is it hard for Maxx to get shoes?
- 3. Does it bother Maxx that his mask is feeding off his face?
- 4. If that is not hair, what is it?
- Can I borrow a dollar?

Steven Oelschlager Radcliff, KY

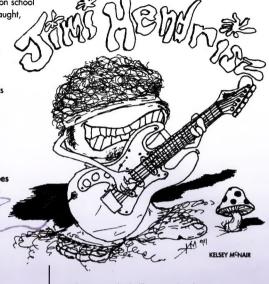
- Not if he walks sideways.
- 2. Yes, he's had the same pair of shoes since he found the mask. Care to be there when he takes them off?
- 3. Sure. Wouldn't it bother you?
- 4. Hmm... let's see... What are those things that Indians wear... headdress. Yeah, that's it.
- 5. No.

Dear Mr. Kieth.

I think I have finally figured out your comic book series, THE MAXX. Pangaea (or the Outback) is a dimension within Julie Winter's mind. THE MAXX is Julie's spirit animal, who protects her from some sort of childhood trauma.

Sexual abuse at the hand of her father. perhaps? Mr Gone may be her father's dream-self.

THE MAXX is a hare modeled after Julie's pet bunny who died. As for the words formed by the panels in the comic. I have no idea what they spell. Pangaea



maybe, or maybe bellbottoms, big feet, or Get a Life, Fanboy!

> Sincerely. James Dysart Brainerd, Minnesota

This is a cool springboard for me to point out

There are a lot of other ways people can be abused. What we're trying to get at is the way other kinds of abuse made Julie feel inside.

Dear Sam.

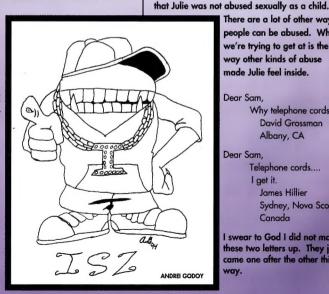
Why telephone cords? David Grossman Albany, CA

Dear Sam.

Telephone cords.... I get it. James Hillier

Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada

I swear to God I did not make these two letters up. They just came one after the other this way.



MOST OF THE STUFF DONE BY SAM KIETH

*** Check it out
** If it's on sale

Never mind...

1983	•	Max the Hare	Comico Primer #5	Comico Comics
		Agatha Moore	Amazing Comics #5	Amazing Comics
1983-8	6 *	Mage #6-15 (inks over Mo		Comico
1984	•	Frog	Vortex #12	Vortex Comics
1985		Journey Ad	Journey #14	Aardvark-Vanhm
		The Duel	Journey #20	Fantagraphics
		Wa-hooma!	Stig's Inferno #6	Eclipse Comics
		Robotech, New Generation		Cómico
1986		Video	Tales of Terror #7	Eclipse
1700		Killing Time	Death Rattle #4	Kitchen Sink
		pin-ups	J. Quest #4, 9	Comico
		One of those	Abstract Anything Goes #2	Comics Journal
1987	***		, wonden . Is alynming coop in 2	Fantagraphics
1,0,		Rain Maker	Death Rattle #13	Kitchen Sink
	***		Critters #7	Fantagraphics
	***		Critters #11, 12	Fantagraphics
		Is cover	Critters #21	Fantagraphics
		back covers	Spaced #8, 13	Unbridld Ambita
1988		Adolescent Radioactive Bla		Eclipse
.,,,,		Bar Joke	GrimJack #43	First Comics
		Target: Airboy #1	Olinback 11-40	Eclipse
		Manhunter #1-3		DC Comics
		Sandman #1-5		DC Comics
1989		Fairy Tale	Manhunter #12	DC Comics
		Batman:	Secret Origins	DC Comics
		The Killing Peck	Special #1	DC Comics
		covers	Nemesis #1-12	Quality Comics
	***	Epicurus the Sage I (writer		Piranha (DC)
1990	**		Ntmare on Elm St.	Marvel
	***		Incredible Hulk #368	Marvel
		Aliens: Earth War #1-4		Dark Horse
1991	**		Bill Loebs)	Piranha (DC)

		Blood Hungry	Marvel Presents #85-92	Marvel
		covers	Marvel Presents	Marvel
	**	front only: #85-89		
	**	front/back: #90-92, 9	4-100	
		back only: #93		
		Marvel Comics Presents #1	100	Marvel
	20.0	covers	Amazing Heroes	Fantagraphics
		cover	Marvel Tales #255	Marvel
	**	cover	Wizard #6	Wizard Press
	***	I Before E #1 (Collected e	arly works)	Fantagraphics
1992	***	I Before E #2 (ditto)		Fantagraphics
		cover	Strk Force America #1-	Comico
		Devil's Brigade	Hellraiser #12	Epic

	*	cover	Lobo's Back #3	DC
		cover	Detective Comics #5	DC
	*	cover	Robin #1	DC
		covers	Toxic Crusaders 2,3,8	DC
1993	***	The Maxx #1/2		Wizard Press
	**	The Maxx #1-6, Darker In	mage	Image Comics
1994	**	The Maxx #7-	9	Image Comics

CARDS

1992	MARVEL UNIVERSE III (Marvel) — 4 cards in the set	
1993	THE MAXX (Wizard) — two promotional cards	
	THE MAXX (Image) — Darker Image insert card	
	WILDSTORM (Homage) — 3 cards	
	STAR WARS GALAXY (Topps) — 2 cards	
	ZEN: INTERGALACTIC NINJA — 1 card	
1994	THE MAXX (Topps) — full set and six foil-etched	
	BART SIMPSON (Bongo) — 1 card	
	MARS ATTACK (Topps) — 1 card	
	SHADOWHAWK (Image) — Loard	

